

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus are disclosed for restricting
5 access to electronic media objects having objectionable content.
The disclosed access control system prevents a user from
accessing objectionable content based on an analysis of the audio
or visual information associated with the content. For example,
image processing techniques are employed to dynamically detect
10 nudity, violence, or other identified inappropriate content in an
image associated with an electronic media object. In addition,
speech recognition techniques can be employed to dynamically
detect one or more predefined stop words in audio information
associated with an electronic media object. When a user first
15 attempts to access an electronic media object, the audio or
visual content (or both) of the electronic media object is
analyzed to determine if the electronic media object contains any
predefined inappropriate content. The inappropriate content may
be defined, for example, in accordance with user-specific access
20 privileges. The user is prevented from accessing the electronic
media object if the content analysis determines that the
electronic media object contains one or more predefined
inappropriate content items, such as nudity, sexually explicit
material, violent content or bad language.